

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated June 5, 2001, the Examiner rejected claims 1-14 and 17-45 as unpatentable under the doctrine of nonstatutory double patenting. Applicant submits a terminal disclaimer to overcome the rejection.

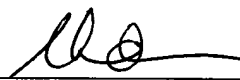
Applicant amended some of the claims to more clearly define the invention. Claims 46-51 are new.

Applicant believes that all grounds for rejection have been answered. Allowance of the present application is respectfully urged.

Respectfully submitted

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MARKUP VERSION OF
CLAIMS 1, 5, 7, 8, 11, 13, 17, 21, 23, 24, 27, AND 29

Claim 1 (Twice Amended). A method for distributing digital data to a plurality of remote sites each having a processing device and a display device, comprising the steps of:

generating a first set of digital data;
encoding each of a plurality of portable read-only storage devices with said first set of digital data;
distributing said plurality of storage devices to said plurality of remote sites;
providing a database containing a second set of digital data and [means for] remotely communicating with said sites using [a bi-directional] communication channels;
said first set of digital data comprising a [plurality of regular displayable items] first set of displayable data, a plurality of formatting codes, a [plurality of special displayable terms] second set of displayable data, a first non-displayable data [symbol], a [plurality of] non-displayable first linkage reference[s], and a second non-displayable data [symbol], said [special displayable terms] second set of displayable data being highlighted when displayed by said display device, said first non-displayable data [symbol] being used by said processing device for recognizing said second set of displayable data [displayable terms], said second non-displayable data [symbol] being used by said processing device for recognizing said [plurality of] first linkage reference[s], [each of] said first [plurality of] linkage reference[s] being used for retrieving a portion of said second set of digital data, and [each of] said second set of displayable data [plurality of special displayable terms] being associated with [one of] said first [plurality of] linkage reference[s];

[said means for communicating comprising means for] receiving [at least one of] said first linkage references transmitted by at least one of said sites using said [bi-directional] communication channels;

searching, by said database, for [a] said portion of said second set of digital data referenced by said [at least one] first linkage reference when said second set of displayable digital data is selected by a user of said at least one of said sites; and

sending, by said database, said portion to said at least one of said remote sites via said [bi-directional] communication channels.

Claim 5 (Once Amended). The method of claim 1 wherein [at least one of said plurality of displayable items contains text-based characters] said database contains a third set of digital data, wherein said second set of digital data comprises a second linkage reference associated with said third set of digital data, said method further comprising a step of searching said database in response to said second linkage reference.

Claim 7 (Once Amended). The method of claim 1 wherein said [each of said plurality of special displayable terms are] second set of displayable data is enclosed between a pair of said first non-displayable data [symbol] and [each of] said [plurality of] first linkage reference[s are] is enclosed between a pair of said second non-displayable data [symbols].

Claim 8 (Twice Amended). An information distribution system for distributing digital data to be displayed in a plurality of remote sites each having a processing device, and a display device, comprising:

a plurality of portable read-only storage devices each encoded with a first set of digital data, said storage devices being distributed to said plurality of remote sites;

a database containing a second set of digital data and [means for] remotely communicating with said sites using [a bi-directional] communication channels;

said first set of digital data comprising a [plurality of regular displayable items] first set of displayable data, a plurality of formatting codes, a [plurality of special displayable terms] second set of displayable data, a first non-displayable data [symbol], a [plurality of] non-displayable first linkage reference[s], and a second non-displayable data [symbol], said [special displayable terms] second set of displayable data being highlighted when displayed by said display device, said first non-displayable data [symbol] being used by said processing device for recognizing said second set of displayable data [displayable terms], said second non-displayable data [symbol] being used by said processing device for recognizing said [plurality of] first linkage

reference[s], [each of] said first [plurality of] linkage reference[s] being used for retrieving a portion of said second set of digital data, and [each of] said second set of displayable data [plurality of special displayable terms] being associated with [one of] said first [plurality of] linkage reference[s];

said database [means for communicating comprising means for] receiving [at least one of] said first linkage reference[s] delivered by at least one of said remote sites; and

means in said database for searching [for a] said portion of said second set of digital data referenced by said [at least one] first linkage reference and for sending said portion to said at least one remote sites via at least one of said [bi-directional] communication channels.

Claim 11 (Once Amended). The system of claim 8 wherein [at least one of said plurality of displayable items contains text-based characters] said database contains a third set of digital data, wherein said second set of digital data comprises a second linkage reference associated with said third set of digital data, and wherein said means for searching further searches said database in response to said second linkage reference.

Claim 13 (Once Amended). The system of claim 8 wherein said [each of said plurality of special displayable terms are] second set of displayable data is enclosed between a pair of said first non-displayable data [symbol] and [each of] said [plurality of] first linkage reference[s are] is enclosed between a pair of said second non-displayable data [symbols].

Claim 17 (Twice Amended). A method for distributing digital data via [a bi-directional] communication channels to a plurality of remote sites each having a processing device, a nonvolatile memory, and a display device, comprising the steps of:

generating a first set of digital data;

encoding each of a plurality of portable read-only storage devices with said first set of digital data;

distributing said plurality of storage devices to said plurality of remote sites;

providing a database containing a second set of digital data, said database accessible by said plurality of remote sites via said [bi-directional] communication channels;

said first set of digital data comprising a set of displayable data and [at least one] a first linkage reference associated with said set of displayable data, said set of displayable data transferable to said nonvolatile memory and displayable on said display device, said first linkage reference transferable to said nonvolatile memory but not displayable on said display device, said first linkage reference being transmitted to said database via said [bi-directional] communication channels when said set of displayable data is selected by a user in at least one of said plurality of sites;

[said database comprising means for] accepting by said database said first linkage reference originated from said at least one of said plurality of sites;

searching, by said database, for a portion of said second set of digital data referenced by said first linkage reference; and

sending, by said database, said portion to said at least one of said plurality of sites via said [bi-directional] communication channels.

Claim 21 (Once Amended). The method of claim 17 wherein [set of displayable items contains text-based characters] said database contains a third set of digital data, wherein said second set of digital data comprises a second linkage reference associated with said third set of digital data, said method further comprising a step of searching said database in response to said second linkage reference.

Claim 23 (Once Amended). The method of claim 17 wherein said [at least one] first linkage reference is enclosed between a pair of non-displayable data [symbols].

Claim 24 (Twice Amended). An information distribution system for distributing digital data via [a bi-direction] communication channels to a plurality of remote sites each having a processing device, a nonvolatile memory, and a display device, comprising:

a plurality of portable read-only storage devices each encoded with a first set of digital data, said storage devices being distributed to said plurality of remote sites;

a database containing a second set of digital data and [means for] remotely communicating with said sites using said [bi-directional] communication channels;

said first set of digital data comprising a set of displayable data and [at least one] a first linkage reference associated with said set of displayable data, said set of displayable data transferable to said nonvolatile memory and displayable on said display device, said first linkage reference transferable to said nonvolatile memory but not displayable on said display device, said first linkage reference being transmitted to said database via said [bi-directional] communication channels when said set of displayable data is selected by a user;

said [means for communicating] database [comprising means for] receiving said [at least one] first linkage reference delivered by at least one of said plurality of sites; and

means in said database for searching for a portion of said second set of digital data referenced by said [at least one] first linkage reference and for sending said portion to said at least one site via said [bi-directional] communication channels.

Claim 27 (Once Amended). The method of claim 24 wherein [set of displayable items contains text-based characters] said database contains a third set of digital data, wherein said second set of digital data comprises a second linkage reference associated with said third set of digital data, said wherein said means for searching further searches said database in response to said second linkage reference.

Claim 29 (Once Amended). The method of claim 24 wherein said [at least one] first linkage reference is enclosed between a pair of non-displayable data [symbols].

linkage reference[s], and a second non-displayable data [symbol], said [special displayable terms] second set of displayable data being highlighted when displayed by said display device, said first non-displayable data [symbol] being used by said processing device for recognizing said second set of displayable data [displayable terms], said second non-displayable data [symbol] being used by said processing device for

recognizing said [plurality of] first linkage reference[s], [each of] said first [plurality of] linkage reference[s] being used for retrieving a portion of said second set of digital data, and [each of] said second set of displayable data [plurality of special displayable terms] being associated with [one of] said first [plurality of] linkage reference[s];

said database [means for communicating comprising means for] receiving [at least one of] said first linkage reference[s] delivered by at least one of said remote sites; and

means in said database for searching [for] a portion of said second set of digital data referenced by said [at least one] first linkage reference and for sending said portion to said at least one remote sites via at least one of said [bi-directional] communication channels.

Claim 11 (Once Amended). The system of claim 8 wherein [at least one of said plurality of displayable items contains text-based characters] said database contains a third set of digital data, wherein said second set of digital data comprises a second linkage reference associated with said third set of digital data, and wherein said means for searching further searches said database in response to said second linkage reference.

Claim 13 (Once Amended). The system of claim 8 wherein said [each of said plurality of special displayable terms are] second set of displayable data is enclosed between a pair of said first non-displayable data [symbol] and [each of] said [plurality of] first linkage reference[s are] is enclosed between a pair of said second non-displayable data [symbols].

Claim 17 (Twice Amended). A method for distributing digital data via [a bi-directional] communication channels to a plurality of remote sites each having a processing device, a nonvolatile memory, and a display device, comprising the steps of:

generating a first set of digital data;

encoding each of a plurality of portable read-only storage devices with said first set of digital data;

distributing said plurality of storage devices to said plurality of remote sites;

providing a database containing a second set of digital data, said database accessible by said plurality of remote sites via said [bi-directional] communication channels;

said first set of digital data comprising a set of displayable data and [at least one] a first linkage reference associated with said set of displayable data, said set of displayable data transferable to said nonvolatile memory and displayable on said display device, said first linkage reference transferable to said nonvolatile memory but not displayable on said display device, said first linkage reference being transmitted to said database base via said [bi-directional] communication channels when said set of displayable data is selected by a user in at least one of said plurality of sites;

[said database comprising means for] accepting by said database said first linkage reference originated from said at least one of said plurality of sites;

searching, by said database, for a portion of said second set of digital data referenced by said first linkage reference; and

sending, by said database, said portion to said at least one of said plurality of sites via said [bi-directional] communication channels.

Claim 21 (Once Amended). The method of claim 17 wherein [set of displayable items contains text-based characters] said database contains a third set of digital data, wherein said second set of digital data comprises a second linkage reference associated with said third set of digital data, said method further comprising a step of searching said database in response to said second linkage reference.

Claim 23 (Once Amended). The method of claim 17 wherein said [at least one] first linkage reference is enclosed between a pair of non-displayable data [symbols].

Claim 24 (Twice Amended). An information distribution system for distributing digital data via [a bi-direction] communication channels to a plurality of remote sites each having a processing device, a nonvolatile memory, and a display device, comprising:

a plurality of portable read-only storage devices each encoded with a first set of digital data, said storage devices being distributed to said plurality of remote sites;

a database containing a second set of digital data and [means for] remotely communicating with said sites using said [bi-directional] communication channels;

said first set of digital data comprising a set of displayable data and [at least one] a first linkage reference associated with said set of displayable data, said set of displayable data transferable to said nonvolatile memory and displayable on said display device, said first linkage reference transferable to said nonvolatile memory but not displayable on said display device, said first linkage reference being transmitted to said database via said [bi-directional] communication channels when said set of displayable data is selected by a user;

said [means for communicating] database [comprising means for] receiving said [at least one] first linkage reference delivered by at least one of said plurality of sites; and

means in said database for searching for a portion of said second set of digital data referenced by said [at least one] first linkage reference and for sending said portion to said at least one site via said [bi-directional] communication channels.

Claim 27 (Once Amended). The method of claim 24 wherein [set of displayable items contains text-based characters] said database contains a third set of digital data, wherein said second set of digital data comprises a second linkage reference associated with said third set of digital data, said wherein said means for searching further searches said database in response to said second linkage reference.

Claim 29 (Once Amended). The method of claim 24 wherein said [at least one] first linkage reference is enclosed between a pair of non-displayable data [symbols].